maximising use of biogas technology has made good progress in the last three years with annually increasing achievements Over 8.8 lakh biogas plants have already been built. The programme has become popular with farmers and there is great demand. The costs of biogas plans have been gradually reduced by developing cheaper as also smaller models. R&D extension, training, financial and institutional measures have all been strengthened which have enabled success of this programme.

To scale up the technology to meet requirements of the community and institutional biogas plants (CBP/IBP), a R&D programme was taken up in 79—81 as a result of which design of large sized biogas plants of the floating drum type has been perfected and various engineering and scientific aspects optimised. This R&D phase was followed up by a CBP/IBP demonstration programme to gain experience. A number of large sized plants have now been functioning continuously for over 2 to 5 years.

Research & Development efforts to diversify feed stocks and to optimise biogas generation are being carried out. With a view to maximise recycling of wastes and residues for biogas generation, R&D for treating industrial effluents for biogas generation have also yielded very favourable results in the recent past with some plants producing 5000 to 8000 cubic metres of biogas per day

Thus a well co-ordinated R&D, technology and extension progaimme involving research institutions, Central as well as State Governments and agencies including voluntary agencies is underway though not termed as a "Technology Mission". The programme, already successful, is set to make even more rapid expansion if adequate funds are provided.

Price increase recommended for coal

*429. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state·

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) has recommended an average price increase of 14 per cent for coking and non-coking coal; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The revised prices of coal produced by Coal India Group of companies recommended by Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) as on 1st January, 1987 will have the effect of increasing the average price of coal by around 14 per cent. The report of the BICP is being studied.

Industrial growth in Arunachal Pradesh

*430. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is hardly any industrial growth in the State of Arunachal Pradesh; and

(b) what are the details of industries set up in the State licences in respect of which have been issued by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix CXLIV, Annexure No. 134].

Public Sector Thermal Power Plants

*431. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the Statewise names of the Central and State public sector thermal power plants, indicating their rated capacity and percentage capacity utilisation in each case during the last three years and the current year so far;

(b) what are the names of 3 major private sector thermal plants in the country, their rated capacity and percentage capacity utilisation of each of them during the same period; and

(c) how the working of the private sector plants compares with that of the public sector plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) Information in regard to the capacities and the Plant Load Factors of thermal stations in the Central, State and private sectors for the period 1984-85 to 1987-88 (April to November) is given in the annexed Statement [*See* Appendix CXLIV, Annexure No. 135]

(c) The performance of several thermal stations in the Central and State sectors compares favourably with the performance of thermal stations in the private sector.

Licence for PFY manufacture to M/s. Reliance Industries

*432. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 79 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th July, 1987 and state:

(a) whether the amended industrial licence for manufacturing Polyester Filament Yarn has since been given to M/s. Reliance Industries; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) In August 1981, M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. were issued an industrial licence for establishment of a new undertaking in Maharashtra for manufacture of Polyester Filament Yarn for a capacity of 10,000 tonnes/annum This capacity was enhanced on 15th November, 1984 to 25,125 tonnes/annum under the re-endorsement scheme based on the highest production achieved.

टिहरी बांध

†*433. **श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी** : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 24 अगस्त, 1987 के "हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स" में "टिहरी डैम प्रोजेक्ट नाट इकन मिकली वायवल" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

ऊर्जा मंत्रालय में विद्युत विभाग के राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी) : (क) और (ख) सरकार का ध्यान उस समाचार की ओर आकर्षित किया गया है, जिसका निष्कर्ष अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ यह है कि टिहरी बांध परियोजना आर्थिक दृष्टि से जीवनक्षम नहीं है, बांध का डिजाइन अधिकतम संभावित भूकम्पीय झटकों के लिए नहीं बनाया गया है और बांध की आयु 65 वर्ष से अधिक नहीं होगी ।

(ग) विशेषज्ञों की एक समिति ने टिहरी बांध परियोजना के भू-वैज्ञानिक और भूकम्पीय पहलुओं का अध्ययन किया है और यह निष्कर्ष निकाला है कि सुरक्षित और मितव्ययी ढांचे के लिए पर्याप्त आंकड़े और अध्ययन किए गए हैं तथा परियोजना के डिजाइन और निर्माण कार्य करने के लिए पर्याप्त तकनीकी सुविज्ञता उपलब्ध है । बांध की उपयोगी आयु 100 वर्ष से अधिक होने का अनुमान है तथा बांध के सुरक्षा संबंधी पहलुओं की जांच भी कर ली गई है । परियोजना की लागत और इससे प्राप्त होने वाले लाभों सहित विभिन्न पहलुओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए योजना आयोग ने परियोजना अनुमोदित कर दी है ।

†पूर्वत: तारांकित प्रश्न 353, 1 दिसम्बर, 1987 से स्थानान्तरित ।